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Demand Again Arises For a CIA Watchdog

By Bulkley Griffin

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WASHINGTON -- The Central Intelligence Agency has recently been getting another wave of criticism. Again there is a demand that it divorce its intelligence-gathering from its operational activities and again, from members of Congress, demand that a congressional committee be named for the CIA.

A watchdog committee, to keep a general oversight on CIA, something like the congressional committee which oversees the activities of the Atomic Energy Commission, has been urged for years. In the last decade probably more than 70 proposals of this nature have been introduced in Congress. Such a repeated proposal by the present Democratic Senate leader, Mike Mansfield, came to a vote in 1956 and was beaten, 27 to 59.

Some influential people supported the Mansfield plan. One was Sen. John Fitzgerald Kennedy of Massachusetts, and others included the present head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, William Fulbright, and the current assistant Democratic Senate leader, Hubert Humphrey. Until President Kennedy took office, Rep. Edward R. Boland, D-Springfield, was one of those repeatedly introducing a watchdog committee proposal.

Today Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., and Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., are specially active in the general field. The latter announced his re-

mitttee to keep in touch with what the CIA is doing.

Sen. Pell and others are stressing the alleged need of separating functions of the CIA. The Rhode Island senator would take its operational activities away. Pell told the Senate last fall that "on balance, the U.S. national interest may well have lost more than it has gained from CIA operational activities." The CIA has on occasion not only tended to make U.S. foreign policy, but to make the foreign policy of some other nations, he said.

Sen. Pell holds the CIA "responsible for the debacle" in Cuba, for interfering in Laos to our national detriment, and for its tendency "to engage in foreign policy, to create it, to tamper with it, to control it."

The CIA operatives "appeared to be politically naive and uninformed," stated Pell. He had some personal experience in this direction just before the Cuban invasion in the spring of 1961. The senator made a trip to Cuba in December 1960 and reported on his return that the Cubans did not appear dissatisfied with the Castro regime. Just a few weeks before the invasion -- which he then did not know about, he has stated -- Pell told top CIA officials that any use of force against Cuba would be a failure. Yet the CIA believed Cubans would rise in support of an invasion and went ahead with the disastrous adventure.

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